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Susie E. Wilson Correspondence

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Susie E. Wilson 1863-

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WILSON, Susie E.

Falmouth, Maine, 1863 -

February 17, 1936

Susie E. Wilson
213 Oxford Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Miss Wilson:

We have read with interest and pleasure your poems which are included in the recent anthology, MAINE AND VERMONT POETS.

We find that we lack biographical information concerning you, and we hope you will be so kind as to send us a brief sketch of this nature, mentioning also the writings that have been published. Your assistance will be very much appreciated.

Please accept our congratulations on your achievement, and our best wishes for future success.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

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Secretary

Mrs.C.S.Wilson,
(Susie E.Wilson),
213 Oxford St.,
Portland,Maine.

Feb.18,1936.

Maine State Library,
Henry E.Dunnack,Librarian,
Augusta,Maine.,

Dear Sir:-

In accordance with the request of your secretary I am sending the following account of my life.

My Father,Nathaniel Pinkham,was an old sea captain who retired from the sea and settled on a farm in Falmouth,Maine,a short time before I was born (1863-Aug.24). My Mother was Sarah Hascall,also from a family of sea going people which probably accounts for the fact that my poems are usually about the sea or the stars.

I had a natural urge to write poetry and tried to when a child,but my efforts in that direction have not survived,with the exception of the class song when I was graduated from Greeley Institute in Cumberland,where my home was. My younger Sister was chosen class poet and we wrote it together. No one knew then that I ever tried to write poetry.

I was married,in 1886,to Charles S.Wilson,and was absorbed in more material things for about twenty years when there occurred a great spiritual change in me and my mind turned toward poetry again.

The Editor of the Portland Transcript,in 1898-9 published the following poems,written about that time and before.

July 16-1908--A Vision of Life.
Aug. 13- " Proteus
Sep. 10- " Sunset on Munjoy Hill
Oct. 8- " The Star of Home
" 15- " Up in the Sky
" 29- " October
Nov. 19- " Our Fallen Sister
" 26 " The Innocent

Dec. 24-1908--The Long Look
Jan. 7-1909--Good Thoughts
Feb. 4- " Moonlight
" 25- " Winter Wind
" 18- " I shall Arrive
Mar. 4- " L'Esperance
" 11- " Rills of Water
" 18- " Patience
May 27- " Fame

He thought very highly of my work and said "You are in a class with Longfellow and Lucy Larcom". After the Transcript was discontinued, I sent a few of my poems to some of the magazines but they were always returned so I soon gave it up. Two of my poems have appeared in the "Portland Evening Express" "Thoughts on the Comet" and "New Year".

That was at the ^{TIME} Halley's comet came so near the Earth.

I wrote a poem for the launching of the schooner Edward P. Winslow for the Captain's Wife, who read it on that occasion. It was quite highly praised by Judge Ingraham and others. It was published in the Argus and the Express.

I also wrote a poem for my cousin, Mrs. Butler, for a public occasion, about "Ancestors", which she read and which was also highly praised.

This was about five years ago. I have written a number of songs of which two have been sung by the "Music Makers" in their radio program, about three years ago. "Love is Calling" and "My Peace in Thee". I have a "Song of the Flag" which I am told is very good but I cannot get it before the public.

I have always wanted to publish my poetry but never have had the money to spare.

There is one thing unusual about my writing-I never think of anything to write unless I sit down with pencil and paper, then it comes almost as tho someone else were writing through me.

I hope this is enough and if too much you can remedy that.

P.S. My Husband died in 1924.

Very truly,

Sussie E. Wilson.

February 24, 1936

Mrs. C.S.Wilson
213 Oxford Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

Thank you for your very helpful letter of February 18. We are filing the material for future reference, and we appreciate deeply your interest in the Maine Suthor Collection.

We do hope that some day you may be in a position to publish a book of your own poems, and indeed you should, for you have many that are ready, and poems with such depth of feeling and yet such delicacy of touch should certainly be put into permanent form.

Please accept our thanks for your assistance, and our sincere wishes for continued success.

Very truly yours

Maine State Library

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Secretary